

“(i) NORTH-CENTRAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.—A north-central research center for the region composed of the States of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

“(ii) NORTHEASTERN CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.—A northeastern research center for the region composed of the States of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia.

“(iii) SOUTH-CENTRAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.—A south-central research center for the region composed of the States of Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

“(iv) SOUTHEASTERN CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.—A southeastern research center for the region composed of the States of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands.

“(v) WESTERN CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—A western research center for the region composed of the States of Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and the States and insular areas covered by the subcenter described in subclause (II).

“(II) WESTERN INSULAR PACIFIC SUBCENTER.—Within the western research center established under subclause (I), a western insular Pacific research subcenter for the region of Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

“(C) CRITERIA.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration and the Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration, shall select each recipient of a grant under subsection (b) and this subsection through a competitive process based on the assessment of the Secretary of—

“(i) the demonstrated leadership within the field of biobased transportation fuel research;

“(ii) demonstrated experience in the conduct and management of research on biobased transportation fuel feedstocks; and

“(iii) demonstrated experience in working with multiple Federal agencies;

“(ii) demonstrated experience in awarding and managing not less than \$7,000,000 over a period of at least 5 years in competitive grant expenditures provided to land-grant colleges and universities, and institutions partnering with land-grant colleges and universities to conduct research and education programs in the area of biobased transportation fuels and biobased products that have the potential to reduce the cost of production of biobased fuel production through high-value coproducts;

“(iii) a demonstrated history of working with other land-grant colleges and universities within the applicable region in the conduct and implementation of field work on biobased transportation fuel feedstocks;

“(iv) a demonstrated history of collaborative efforts to collect and use natural resource and feedstock data for incorporation into geographic information systems and decisionmaking models;

“(v) a history of and working access to biobased feedstock production research stations in each State of the applicable region;

“(vi) the demonstrated ability of the recipient to disseminate results and promote the implementation of transportation research and education programs through na-

tional or regional education and outreach programs; and

“(vii) the demonstrated commitment of the recipient to the use of peer review principles and other research best practices in the selection, management, and dissemination of research projects.

“(3) SELECTION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the MAP-21, the Secretary, in conjunction with the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration, shall—

“(A) select nonprofit institutions of higher education to receive grants under subsection (b) and this section; and

“(B) make grant amounts available to the selected recipients.

“(d) USE OF GRANTS BY UNIVERSITY CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE AND SUBCENTER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A university center of excellence or subcenter established for a region under subsection (c) shall use 75 percent of the funds made to provide competitive grants to entities that are—

“(A) eligible to receive grants under subsection (b)(7) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 4501(b)(7)); and

“(B) located in the region.

“(2) ACTIVITIES.—Grants made under this subsection shall be used by the grant recipient to conduct, in a manner consistent with the purposes of this section, multiinstitutional and multistate research, extension, and education programs on technology development implementation.

“(3) ADMINISTRATION.—

“(A) PEER AND MERIT REVIEW.—In making grants under this subsection, a research center or subcenter shall—

“(i) seek and accept proposals for grants;

“(ii) determine the relevance and merit of proposals through a system of scientific peer review; and

“(iii) award grants on the basis of merit, quality, and relevance to advancing the purposes of this section.

“(B) TERM.—A grant awarded by a research center or subcenter shall have a term that does not exceed 5 years.

“(C) MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED.—As a condition of receiving a grant under this subsection, the research center or subcenter shall require that not less than 20 percent of the cost of an activity described in paragraph (2) be matched with funds (including in-kind contributions) from a non-Federal source.

“(4) RESEARCH, EXTENSION AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—A university center of excellence or subcenter shall use the remainder of the grant funds, after application of paragraph (1), to conduct a regional research, extension, and educational program in a manner consistent with the purposes of this section.

“(5) PLANNING COORDINATION.—Grant funds made available under this subsection may be used to carry out planning coordination under this subsection.

“(6) MAXIMUM GRANT.—The amount of a grant made to a recipient for a fiscal year under this subsection shall not exceed \$6,000,000.

“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated out of the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) to carry out this section \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012 and 2013.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The analysis for subchapter I of chapter 55 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“Sec. 5507. University renewable transportation fuels program.”

**SA 1708.** Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ . MOTORCOACH SAFETY STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 3 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall award a competitive research grant to a qualified, independent research institution to conduct a comprehensive research study of the safe operation of motorcoaches that—

(1) uses naturalistic driving data equipment; and

(2) focuses on driver fatigue, driver distraction, hours of service, and other areas determined by the Secretary to be necessary.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 9 months after the date on which the research grant is awarded pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit a report containing the results of the study conducted under subsection (a) to—

(1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

#### NOTICE OF HEARING

##### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 6, 2012, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the President's Proposed Budget for fiscal year 2013 for the Forest Service.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, room 304 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to [Jake\\_McCook@energy.senate.gov](mailto:Jake_McCook@energy.senate.gov).

For further information, please contact please contact Scott Miller (202) 224-5488 or Jake McCook (202) 224-9313.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 16, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.